Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00964 251314Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 $/036\,\mathrm{W}$

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R 251213Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8586
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0964

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB, IC

SUBJECT: DOCKWORKERS LIFT EXPORT BAN

REF: REYKJAVIK 0509 DTG 141428Z APR 78

1. AT JULY 24 MEETING OF BOARD OF ICELANDIC GENERAL AND TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION (VMSI), IT WAS DECIDED TO LIFT EXPORT BAN WHICH HAD BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE MID-APRIL. VMSI LEADERSHIP SAID BAN HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE AND HAD MADE POINT OF DEMONSTRATING LABOR OPPOSITION TO GOI ECONOMIC MEASURES. EMPLOYERS ON OTHER HAND FELT BAN HAD GENERALLY BEEN FAILURE IN THAT GOODS WERE STILL ABLE TO BE MOVED THROUGH PORTS IN UNAFFECTED AREAS. IN ADDITION, NUMEROUS EXEMPTIONS TO BAN WERE GRANTED BY VMSI WHENEVER IT FELT IT WOULD BE IN ITS OWN INTEREST.

2. EMBASSY LEARNED LAST WEEK THAT BAN WAS LIKELY TO BE LIFTED BECAUSE OF UNHAPPINESS WITHIN LABOR MOVEMENT. SEAMEN AND OTHERS CONNECTED WITH FISHING INDUSTRY WERE GENERALLY UNHAPPY WWITH EXPORT BAN AND, WITH COOPERATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00964 251314Z

FROM EMPLOYERS, HELPED PRESSURE VMSI TO LIFT BAN.

3. ALTHOUGH STRIKE CAUSED SOME INCONVENIENCE, ITS IMPACT ON INTENDED TARGETS--GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYERS--WAS MINIMAL. WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT LABOR WAS SUFFERING MORE THAN MANAGEMENT, EXPORT BAN WAS LIFTED. BLAKE

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